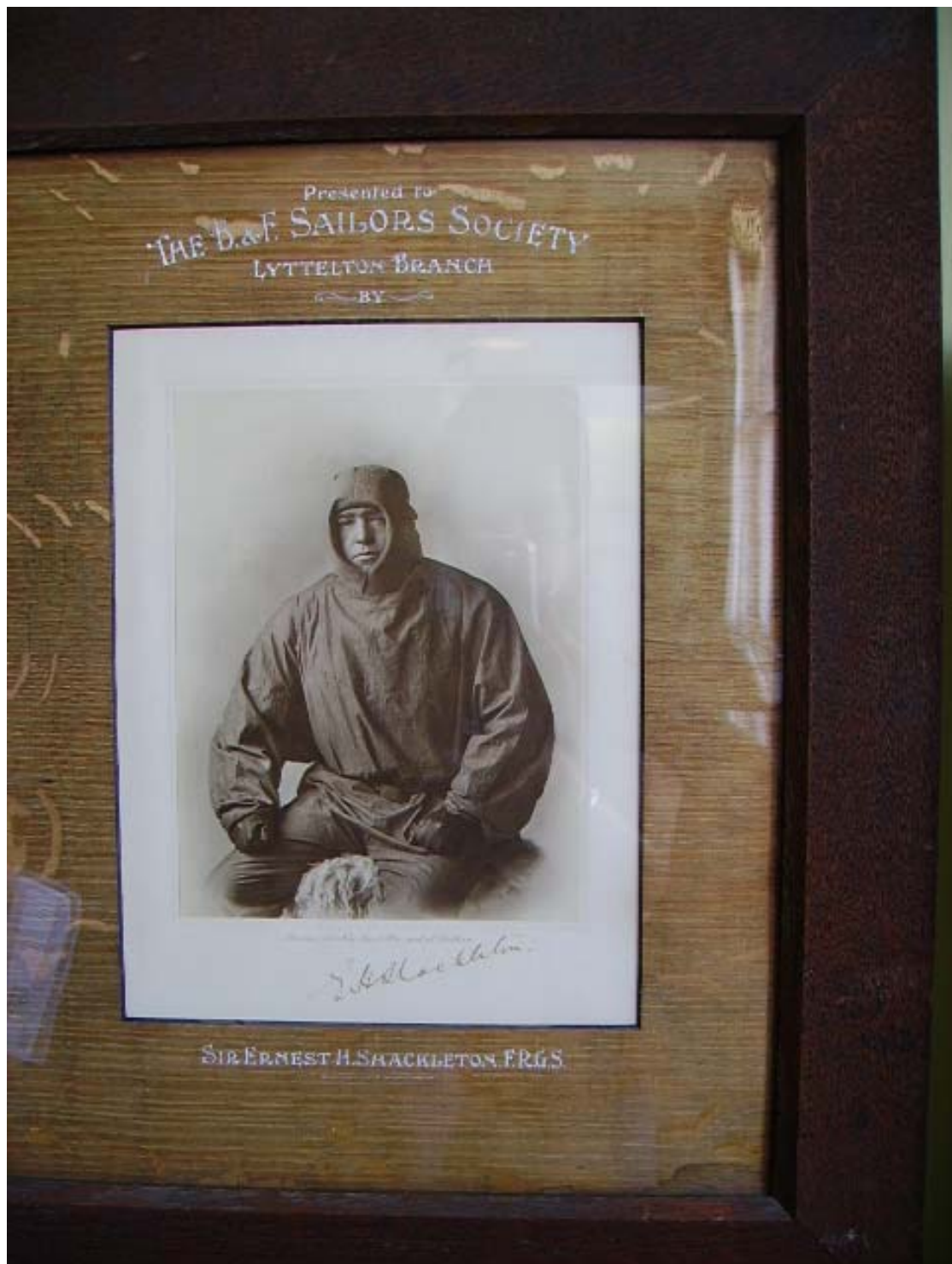


ANTA 504
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Shackleton's Connections with Canterbury, 1901-1917



Abstract

This paper collates in chronological order of expeditions, much of the primary and secondary source material available in Christchurch on Shackleton's connections with Canterbury. Shackleton spent time in Christchurch on five occasions: before and after the *Discovery* Expedition, 1901, and 1903, before and after the *Nimrod* Expedition, 1907 and 1909, and after the rescue of the Ross Sea Party in 1917. This paper collates information on banquets, receptions and concerts given for Shackleton by Christchurch and Lyttelton citizens, and organisations. It explains various types of support given to Shackleton, both financial and practical. It also looks at significant connections that Shackleton made with Canterbury families such as the Tripp family of Orari Gorge Station, and the Saunders family of Lyttelton. Shackleton's contributions to Christchurch are also described, in particular, his public lectures and financial donations. The paper gives evidence of the enormous public interest in Shackleton's endeavours, in terms of numbers of people who turned out to farewell him, who visited his ships while they were berthed at Lyttelton, and who attended his public lectures. It concludes by briefly looking at how Shackleton was able to make use of the contacts he made, and the resources of Canterbury, and at the way the local residents showed their support for him.

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Aim of the Research

The purpose of this research is to collate information regarding Sir Ernest Shackleton's connections with Canterbury, in particular, Christchurch and Lyttelton, 1901-1917. Shackleton spent time in Christchurch and Lyttelton prior to the departures of the *Discovery*, 1901-3 and *Nimrod*, 1907-9 Expeditions, and also on their return from Antarctica. He was also in Christchurch in 1917 after the rescue of the Ross Sea Party on the *Aurora*. Since there has been little systematic or comprehensive gathering of information concerning Shackleton's activities in Lyttelton and Christchurch, it seems timely to do so, especially as the centenary of the *Nimrod* Expedition approaches. Thus, the aim of this research is to collate information from the primary and secondary source material available in Christchurch and present it in chronological order. Once this is completed, I will conclude by briefly considering the following questions:

- In what ways was Shackleton able to make use of the resources and contacts he made in Canterbury?
- How did the local population show their interest and support for Shackleton?

Methodology

This research began with establishing the dates that the vessels of the Antarctic expeditions that Shackleton was involved with arrived in Lyttelton. I spoke with Baden Norris, the former curator of the Canterbury Museum Antarctic Collection, who was particularly helpful in providing some leads, and advice as to the most efficient way to access information. He also indicated some key events that Shackleton was involved in.

The New Zealand Room at the Canterbury Public Library was a major resource. Using their microfiche facilities I systematically read the newspapers for the periods that Shackleton was in Canterbury, scanning for information that connected him with local citizens and organisations. The three main newspapers, the *Lyttelton Times*, *The Press*, and *The Star* were checked in this way. This primary source material provided leads to Christchurch organisations and individuals. The New Zealand Room was also helpful in providing access to some archival material from the Canterbury Club, which entertained the officers and scientists from the Antarctic expeditions.. Links to archival material were also made through internet search engines such as NRAM, the National Register of Archival Material.

Another major resource was the Documentary Research Centre in the Canterbury Museum. This provided access to archival material such as menus, letters and family archives, such as that of the Tripp family. This material gave further detail on Shackleton's activities in Canterbury. The G.R. MacDonald Dictionary of Canterbury Biographies was useful for checking the details of those identified in connection with Shackleton.

I was fortunate in being able to interview some key people such as Stephen Symons who had written a history of Warners' Hotel, Mr Richard Studholme, Mr Joe Studholme and Ms Rosa Tripp. These assisted my inquiry by giving detail of family connections with Shackleton.

Finally, I checked the literature on Shackleton from writers such as Roland Huntsford, John and Marjory Fisher and John Thomson for further information.

Research Limitations

This research project is obviously limited in its scope by the time allocated for it. However, there were other limitations. The principal one was the inaccessibility of Shackleton's diaries which are held in the Scott Polar Research Institute in England. These, undoubtedly, contain valuable, relevant information. The diaries of other members of his expeditions were also unavailable, with some being held in the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. Another limitation was the apparent lack of archival information from the now demolished United Services Hotel, for the relevant years. Some of Shackleton's correspondence was sent from this hotel, and it would have been useful to know if he had stayed there at all, or whether he had only stayed at Warners' Hotel as is thought. Also, I was unable to find information as to the activities of the members of the *Nimrod* Expedition at Christmas 1907. Given the hospitality of the local citizens, I would have thought that many of the expedition members would have been invited into local homes for Christmas celebrations. However, I am unable to substantiate that. Time constraints also meant that some families were unable to check visitors' books for the specific dates of Shackleton's stay.

Background to Shackleton's Visits

Shackleton's visits to Christchurch were set in the Heroic Era of Antarctic Exploration, 1899-1920. This was also a period in New Zealand's history, and elsewhere in the British Empire, when there was an enormous amount of public interest in exploration which was linked with the wider colonial impetus and the idea of progress. This was evident in Bishop Julius's sermon at the Thanksgiving Service

given at Christchurch Cathedral for the safe return of the *Morning* in April 1903. He preached that “God had implanted in man’s breast a thirst for exploration...were we not told in the very earliest words of olden times that man must subdue the earth and replenish it? No bounds were set to man’s inquiry” (*Lyttelton Times* 15/4/1903, p6). It was also a period of great pride in being part of the British Empire.

The Royal Geographical Society had decided to explore the Ross Sea area and gave Scott, who had been chosen to command this expedition, the choice of Melbourne or Lyttelton as his base. Lyttelton was closer to the Ross Sea, but other factors were involved in the decision. Scott’s cousin, Robert Julian Scott, was a professor at Canterbury College (Rice, 2004) and also, a magnetic observatory had been established in Christchurch at the request of Dr Coleridge Farr, the professor of physics at Canterbury College, to help the scientists on the expedition to calibrate their instruments (*The Press*, 5/4/1909, p7). Thus, when the National Antarctic (*Discovery*) Expedition, 1901-4, led by Commander R.F.Scott decided to use Lyttelton as their base to make their final preparations for the expedition, the citizens of Christchurch and Lyttelton enthusiastically supported those involved in the expedition. The interest in this expedition laid the foundation for support for Shackleton’s *Nimrod* Expedition, 1907-9.

In other ways Scott laid the foundation for the support of future Antarctic expeditions. Scott appointed Mr Joseph Kinsey as his New Zealand agent. Kinsey was a bearded, philanthropic, cultivated and wealthy English-born, Christchurch shipper (Huntford, 1985, p189). He had also gained the support of the Hon C.C. Bowen, a cousin of Sir Clements Markham, the President of the Royal Geographical Society, the Canterbury

Club, the Lyttelton Harbour Board and the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury.

These also proved helpful and supportive of Shackleton.

Shackleton was based in Christchurch and Lyttelton during the following periods:

- November 28 1901-December 21 1901, prior to the departure of the National Antarctic, *Discovery*, Expedition under Commander R.F. Scott.
- March 25 1903-April 1903, Shackleton returned to Lyttelton on the relief ship *Morning*.
- December 13 1907-January 1 1908, prior to the departure of the British Antarctic, *Nimrod* Expedition, that Shackleton led. The *Nimrod* and her crew had arrived in Lyttelton on November 23 1907.
- March 25 1909-April 16 1909, the return of the *Nimrod*.
- February 9 1917- March 1917, the return of the *Aurora* which had rescued the Ross Sea Party of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic, *Endurance*, Expedition, who had been stranded after their ship had blown out to sea.

Shackleton's Connections with Canterbury

1.Shackleton's First Visit to Christchurch, 1901.

The Discovery Expedition

Shackleton's first visit to Christchurch was as an officer on the *Discovery* Expedition. The first resident of Lyttelton to meet him was the Lyttelton Postmaster who was woken by Shackleton's knocking at 1am, shortly after the *Discovery* had docked. The Postmaster went to the door and 'found the smiling face of Lieutenant Shackleton, who, with irresistible manner, apologised for

troubling the startled Postmaster' and asked for the *Discovery's* letters (*Lyttelton Times*, 30/11/01, p7).

Huge interest was shown in the *Discovery* Expedition by the local citizens. This was evident in the amount of newspaper coverage the expedition had; *The Press* devoted several full pages to the expedition, as did the *Lyttelton Times*. *The Press*, on behalf of the citizens of Christchurch, offered Commander Scott and the members of the expedition, a 'most hearty welcome' (*The Press* 29/11/01, p5). Large numbers of people visited the ship in the weekends; so many that extra trains had to be put on (*Lyttelton Times*, 11/12/01, p5).

Shackleton spent about a month at Lyttelton overseeing the restowing of the *Discovery*, and became known in the local community. Hospitality was provided by local citizens such as the daughters of Captain Hatchwell who ran a navigation school with their father, and entertained Shackleton, and other officers at their home in Lyttelton, Devonia Cottage, 10a Bridle Path Road.



Devonia Cottage

Christchurch and Lyttelton provided hospitality, entertainment and practical support for the expedition that Shackleton was a part of. Both men and officers were provided for. Examples of this hospitality were:

- 7 December 1901, a Smoke concert was given by the Sydenham and Addington Working Men's Clubs for the men of the expedition (*The Press*, 11/12/01, p7).
- 10 December 1901, a dinner at Warners' Hotel was given for the officers and scientists by the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, and the citizens of Christchurch. The Honorable C.C.Bowen spoke on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society, and the Mayor, Mr A.E.G.Rhodes attended (*Lyttelton Times*, 11/12/01, p7).

- 11 December 1901, a Smoke concert was given to the crew by the residents of Lyttelton at the Oddfellows Hall, Winchester Street (*The Press*, 14/12/01, p8)
- 18 December 1901, the ladies of Christchurch gave a Cinderella Ball in the Art Gallery for the officers of the *Discovery* and other vessels in Lyttelton.
- Special church services were also provided. On the day the *Discovery* sailed, Bishop Julius held a brief service on board ship (*Lyttelton Times*, 21/12/01, p7).
- Shackleton, Scott and Wilson stayed with Mr Joseph Kinsey at Te Hau, his home at 14 Kinsey Terrace on Clifton Hill on their last few days before leaving for the Antarctic (Bain, 2005).

By the time the *Discovery* had departed Lyttelton, Shackleton had already made connections with the local community which would be useful to him for future expeditions to Antarctica. He had met leading members of the Christchurch community such as the Bowen who had entertained Scott, Shackleton and other officers at his home, Middleton Grange, the Mayor, Mr J.J.Kinsey, and members of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute. He had also been impressed with the generosity and warmth of the local citizens. These connections would be reinforced when he returned from Antarctica, unexpectedly, on the relief ship *Morning* in 1903.

2.Shackleton's Second Visit to Canterbury

Shackleton Returns to Lyttelton, March 25 1903.

Shackleton returned on the relief ship, *Morning*, to be greeted by a 'goodly sized crowd' (The Star, 25/3/03). The interest in the *Discovery* expedition had not waned, and the local citizens were anxious for news of the expedition. Both *The*

Press and the *Lyttelton Times* gave wide coverage of the exploits of the expedition which made headline news. A report was sent back with the relief ship from Scott, but it is widely believed that Shackleton was interviewed extensively concerning the expedition, and was a major source of the information published. This was highly likely as he was the only participant in the ‘Southern Journey’ who returned at that time. But, it is difficult to determine this without access to Shackleton’s diaries as neither sources, nor authors were normally given in newspaper articles of the time.

Shackleton was popular with the local residents, partly for his heroic exploits. Sir Clements Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society praised Shackleton’s courage on the ‘Southern Journey’ in an article published in the *Lyttelton Times*. ‘It was a magnificent achievement, worthy of the men and of the best traditions of British exploration...it was on this journey, we believe, that Lieutenant Shackleton burst a blood vessel...adds to the magnitude of his exploit that he should have kept constantly forward, unmindful of his bleeding lung.’ (26/03/03, p4).

Both Shackleton and Captain Colbeck of the *Morning* spoke highly of the hospitality and kindness shown by their friends in Canterbury (*Lyttelton Times*, 3/04/03, p4). While the vessel was in port the crew were provided with free railway passes (*Lyttelton Times*, 28/03/03, p8) and free fruit. Shackleton was also careful to express the thanks of the *Discovery* men for the generosity of Canterbury citizens in providing an organ to assist with Sunday services (*The Star*, 27/3/03, p4), and to the farmers in providing sheep for the expedition, ‘The

mutton supplied to the *Discovery* by the Canterbury farmers was highly appreciated...a special treat on Sundays, and when the men were served their toddies, the toast of the Canterbury farmers was regularly drunk' (*The Press* 27/4/03, p5) This acknowledgement of the support given to the men of the expedition would have helped consolidate the enthusiastic support given to expeditions heading to Antarctica and to Shackleton also, as would the donation of preserved animal skins to the Canterbury museum (*The Star*, 27/3/03, p4)

2.1 Shackleton's Connections with Canterbury Families

Shackleton made a very significant connection at this time. While he and Colbeck were in Christchurch they met Bernard and Ella Tripp of Orari Gorge Station. They invited Colbeck and Shackleton to stay with them. They did this, staying for about three weeks. During this time, Shackleton met Bernard's brother Leonard who became a lifelong friend and tremendous supporter of his work, especially with the Aurora relief expedition for the stranded Ross Sea Party. Before returning to England, Shackleton stayed with Leonard Tripp in his home in Molesworth Street, Wellington (Tripp LOH, 1958).

Shackleton had not been the leader of the *Discovery* Expedition, but had nevertheless made some important connections in Canterbury that were to serve him well in his subsequent expeditions. He had met Kinsey, Bowen and other significant Canterbury citizens. He had tasted the hospitality of Canterbury and had nurtured this with his gratitude and courtesy. He had also met the Tripp family, of whom Leonard would become a close friend and support. Unbeknownst to Shackleton, in 1901, he had met a young nineteen year- old reporter for the

Lyttelton Times, Edward Saunders, the son of Samuel Saunders the editor of the *Lyttelton Times*, who was to become significant later (Thomson, 1998, p188).

3.Shackleton's Third Visit to Christchurch The Nimrod Expedition, 1907-9.

Shackleton returned to Christchurch in December 1907 as the leader of his own expedition, the British Antarctic (*Nimrod*) Expedition. His involvement in the *Discovery* Expedition had done much to pave the way for the enthusiastic support he received from the local community, as had the work of Commander Scott. This was a period of great patriotism towards the British Empire, especially with the Arms Race in Europe, and gloomy predictions of war (Fisher, 1957, p260). New Zealanders were very proud of being part of the British Empire and of any opportunity to support it. There was also enormous public interest in exploration, in learning about new areas of the world. Shackleton's expedition coincided with exploratory trips to the Campbell and Auckland Islands, and also with news of the wreck of the *Dundonald* and the rescue of its sailors. These events had wide coverage in *The Press* and stimulated further interest in the Antarctic(*The Press*, 10/12/07). Mr Joseph Kinsey, who had been Scott's New Zealand agent, had agreed to be Shackleton's also. In fact, he 'took Shackleton under his wing' (Huntford, 1985, p189), providing invaluable support for the *Nimrod* expedition, although they did disagree later over the handling of the rescue of the Ross Sea Party in 1917.

The *Nimrod* docked at Lyttelton on the 23 November 1907, several weeks before Shackleton arrived. She was greeted with huge enthusiasm from the residents of

Christchurch and Lyttelton. The local newspapers devoted several pages to the expedition, *The Press* editorial saying:

‘Christchurch and Lyttelton are proud...to be able to assist in any way adventures which are so characteristic of our race, and those on board the *Nimrod* ...will find...as warm a welcome waiting for them as greeted the men of the *Discovery*’ (*The Press*, 25/11/07, p7).

The newspapers contained articles explaining the aims of the expedition, biographical details of the officers and scientists on it, and many other articles on topics such as their food supplies, the car they were taking down and the men’s quarters. Given the amount of coverage the newspapers contained, there must have been an avid interest in the expedition from the local residents. It is possible that Shackleton was seen as a tangible expression of the true, heroic spirit of Empire. On Sunday 24 November sightseers flocked to Lyttelton to see the *Nimrod*, and in Tuesday’s *Press* it was reported that ‘the men of the *Nimrod* have been models of good behaviour. They are making hosts of friends, and their stay in Lyttelton will assuredly be a pleasant one’ (*The Press*, 26/11/07, p7).

Canterbury showed their support of the crew by providing them with free railway passes. These were rarely given out, and the fact that these men were given them is evidence of the esteem in which they were held (Reid, M, railway historian). They were encouraged to explore the countryside as time permitted (several went to Hanmer Springs, and some of the scientists visited the Mount Cook region). Many were ‘adopted’ by Christchurch families who welcomed them into their homes (Fisher, 1958, p131).

Shackleton arrived in Christchurch on the 13 November 1907. He inspected the *Nimrod* and then travelled to Warner's Hotel in Christchurch with Captain England. Shackleton had pleasant memories of the hotel from the banquet he had attended that was held in Scott's honour in 1901, and now chose to maintain an office at Warner's for the duration of his stay in Christchurch (Symons, 2002, p113). A local reporter described them as 'both leaders of men, Britons fashioned from the best traditional, national types; both in the full vigorous flush of manhood...Shackleton was relaxed as he chatted engagingly upon details of his plans with the lightsome air of one recounting the prospects of a summer picnic jaunt' (*The Press*, 14/12/07, p10). Shackleton was courteous and co-operative with the media, which helped him gain their support, and thus, the support of the local community. Baden Norris said that 'Shackleton was the darling of the media'.

This popularity kept Shackleton busy, but he was evidently very happy in New Zealand, 'his open and cheerful manner suited a country where men were taken at their own valuation, where enterprise was valued and affectation frowned upon' (Fisher, 1958, p137). The next three weeks before the *Nimrod* sailed were frantic with activity, including much colonial hospitality.

3.1 Financial problems, Canterbury's Assistance.

The first major issue that Shackleton had to deal with was finance. He had stayed briefly with his friend Leonard Tripp in Wellington before heading south (LOH

Tripp papers) and had told him of his financial worries. Tripp introduced Shackleton to a Mr J Coates, a banker, and to the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, both of whom proved helpful. Shackleton's arrival in Christchurch had been preceded by the publication of an interview with him in London where he explained that his expedition was privately funded and short of money needed to complete their work (*The Press* 4/12/07, p7). *The Press* was concerned at this and on the arrival of Shackleton the headlines read, **'For the South Pole. Arrival of Lt Shackleton. Will New Zealand Help?'** (*The Press* 13/12/07, p8). The editorial encouraged New Zealand to help as other nations were also interested in the South Pole, and it was important for Britain to get the prize. It also pointed out that New Zealand would benefit from the magnetic survey and that Shackleton was determined to give collections of Antarctic animals and insects to New Zealand museums.

The Press continued to support Shackleton in his need for funds with further references to the problem, and patriotic reasons for New Zealand to assist him. 'It must be regarded...a piece of good fortune that for a second time within five years, the eyes of the world should be directed to New Zealand as the base from which a determined attempt is being made to wrest from the South Pole, its secrets', but more funds must be donated if this is to be done. 'The Dominion is acquiring a good name for itself in scientific circles and the world...' The paper also referred to the £1000 donation that the government had given to Scott's expedition (*The Press* 14/12/07, p10). In the same paper, Shackleton was quoted: 'the question of finance has caused me some perplexity... I've interviewed fifty millionaires, and not one would give me a penny...I hope your New Zealand government... will give a lead.' On the 16 December Cabinet voted to donate

£1000 to Shackleton's expedition. Shackleton and England were 'elated...at the New Zealand government's handsome grant...we appreciate it all the more because of the handsome feeling it typifies' (*The Press* 17/12/07, p7). Shackleton went further, 'and let me say what we will do for New Zealand and Australia. If we find important geographical discoveries Australia and New Zealand will be remembered in naming them...maybe a Mt Wellington or Mt Christchurch...I will bring back skins of Antarctic petrels,...and live Emperor and Adelie penguins for the Acclimatisation Society's garden in Christchurch' (*The Star*, 17/12/07, p5). This kind of heartfelt appreciation further endeared Shackleton to the people of Christchurch, and appealed to a patriotic sense of conquest too. The government provided additional support by authorising Shackleton to act as Postmaster, and open a Post Office in King Edward VII Land, and provided special stamps to be used. Shackleton was very appreciative of this (*Lyttelton Times*, 19/12/07, p7).

Shackleton had also gained the support of powerful local gentlemen such as the Bowen (a Member of Parliament) whom he had met with Scott on the *Discovery* Expedition. Bowen had entertained members of the expedition at his Riccarton home, Middleton Grange. The Mayor of Christchurch, the chairman of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute which sponsored various social and events; Mr Joseph Kinsey, Shackleton's New Zealand agent, and the chairman of the Lyttelton Harbour Board which provided the expedition with free use of the Harbour facilities. The Premier, Sir Joseph Ward (although, not from Christchurch) had also shown an active interest in the expedition. He and Lady Ward visited the *Nimrod* on December 22 and asked Shackleton to take their autographed photographs with him to hang on the walls of their base-hut to

‘remind them that friends in New Zealand were following their career with loving interest’ (*The Press*, 23/12/07, p7). These men all assisted Shackleton, either by providing pressure for others to support him, or in practical ways. Their public support of the expedition encouraged others to help.

The residents of Canterbury also provided support in various ways, all evidence of the esteem in which Shackleton was held. Mr C.A.C. Hardy of Rakaia provided Vanguard Chemical fire extinguishers for the expedition (Shackleton, letter, 27/12/07, MS211). Mr Alex Boyle, a stock and station agent (MacDonald, 1964) was one of many Canterbury farmers who continued the tradition that began with Scott’s expedition, and donated sheep. Shackleton took great care to personally thank all those who contributed in any way (Shackleton, letter, 21/1/08, MS57), Mr George Buckley, a wealthy farmer, devoted yachtsman and friend of Shackleton’s, donated £500, and promised him a further £1000 if he reached the South Pole (Huntford, 1985, p191). These were considerable sums of money. Christchurch provided the expedition with ice-boring apparatus (*Lyttelton Times*, 27/12/07, p7)

3.2 The *Koonya* is Provided to Tow the *Nimrod* to the Ice

Another area in which Shackleton required assistance was the necessity for a vessel to tow the *Nimrod* to the ice-pack. It had become apparent that the *Nimrod* was over-laden and unable to carry sufficient coal to guarantee her return journey. The answer was to tow her some of the way, thus saving coal. This was another cost that the expedition could not afford. Yet again, Shackleton was able to gain the support of the New Zealand government and also a local shipping company.

The government offered to pay half the cost for the steamship, *Koonya*, to tow the *Nimrod* to the edge of the ice. The Union Steamship Company which owned the vessel, agreed to pay the other half 'such was the sympathy that Shackleton had managed to excite' (Huntford, 1985, p192). Shackleton was careful, as always, to acknowledge this support, 'It is characteristic of the many kindnesses I have received at the hands of the New Zealand people' (*The Press*, 27/12/07, p7).

3.3 Shackleton's Involvement in the Christchurch Community

Shackleton was prepared to be involved in the community where he could, and as time allowed. He showed an interest in young people, especially in their education, and welcomed interested groups of pupils on board the *Nimrod*. One such group was from the Technical College. Two weeks later Shackleton was invited to the school to speak to the pupils who presented him with a hamper of 'Christmas cheer for the petty officers and men of the *Nimrod*'. He was delighted and told the pupils it would make 'a toothsome addition to the ship's pantry'. He also encouraged them to 'work harder than they played'. He then had afternoon tea with the principal and staff (*The Star*, 20/12/07, p4). He did not forget this school, renewing his acquaintance with it on his return.

Shackleton had also promised a young boy from Christ's College a tour of the *Nimrod*. This had a major impact on this young lad's life, and was the subject of an article in the newspaper, **Two Hours on the *Nimrod*** (*The Press*, 30/12/07, p11).

Shackleton was known for the entertaining lectures that he gave, and the people of Christchurch had been asking him for one. He gave this on the 20th December to a

crowded His Majesty's Theatre (later known as the Odeon Theatre) in Tuam Street. Over 500 people had been unable to get tickets for this event, such was the interest. The Mayor presided saying that 'the people of Christchurch took a deep and personal interest in the Antarctic Expedition', and led three 'ringing cheers' for Lt Shackleton. Shackleton replied to this welcome by saying that 'he believed that nowhere would the expedition get a warmer greeting on their return than they would in Christchurch' (*The Press*, 21/12/07, p9). The lecture related the achievements of the *Discovery* Expedition and was illustrated with lantern slides which were very popular. Shackleton then explained the aims of the *Nimrod* Expedition.

3.4 Canterbury Hospitality

Many social events were held in Christchurch and Lyttelton to welcome the expedition members and to wish them well in their endeavours. These were all well attended by representatives-generally male- of various Canterbury organisations, and by city political and religious leaders.

A dinner was held for Shackleton and the officers and scientists of the expedition on 19 December 1907, at Freeman's Rooms in Christchurch (F.W.Cochrane was the proprietor. The rooms were at 262 High Street). Bowen presided over the evening which was attended by more than eighty Canterbury gentlemen including Bishop Julius and Kinsey (*The Press*, 20/12/07, p8). The menu was formal, fitting the occasion (Shackleton papers, Canterbury Museum, Documentary Centre):

MENU

Oxtail Soup
Puree of Tomato

Fillets of Sole, Cucumber Sauce
Lambs Sweetbreads en Voulette
Compote of Pigeon a la Alexandra
Roast Saddle of Mutton and Redcurrant Jelly
Roast Sirloin of Beef and Horseradish

Trifle
Strawberries and Cream

Croutes a la Madison

Dessert in Season

Café Noir

Shackleton was presented with a copper salver made from bolts taken from Nelson's ship *Victory*. Various toasts were proposed, Bishop Julius said that the scientists would be doing a high and noble work, a religious work, and 'all would follow them in their thoughts and pray God to bring them safely home'. Kinsey honoured all those who had assisted with the expedition and raised a toast to Shackleton who responded with heartfelt gratitude to all those who had assisted the expedition. Captain England also responded, saying, 'returning to New Zealand was like coming home again...he realised the true extent of the generous knowledge and sympathy a warm-hearted people were capable of extending' (*The Press*, 20/12/07, p8).

On Monday 23 December a *Conversazione* was held at Canterbury Hall sponsored by the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury and the Board of Governors of Canterbury College. A musical programme was provided by the Cathedral Quartette, and the evening ended with the singing of the National Anthem (*The Press*, 24/12/07, p7).

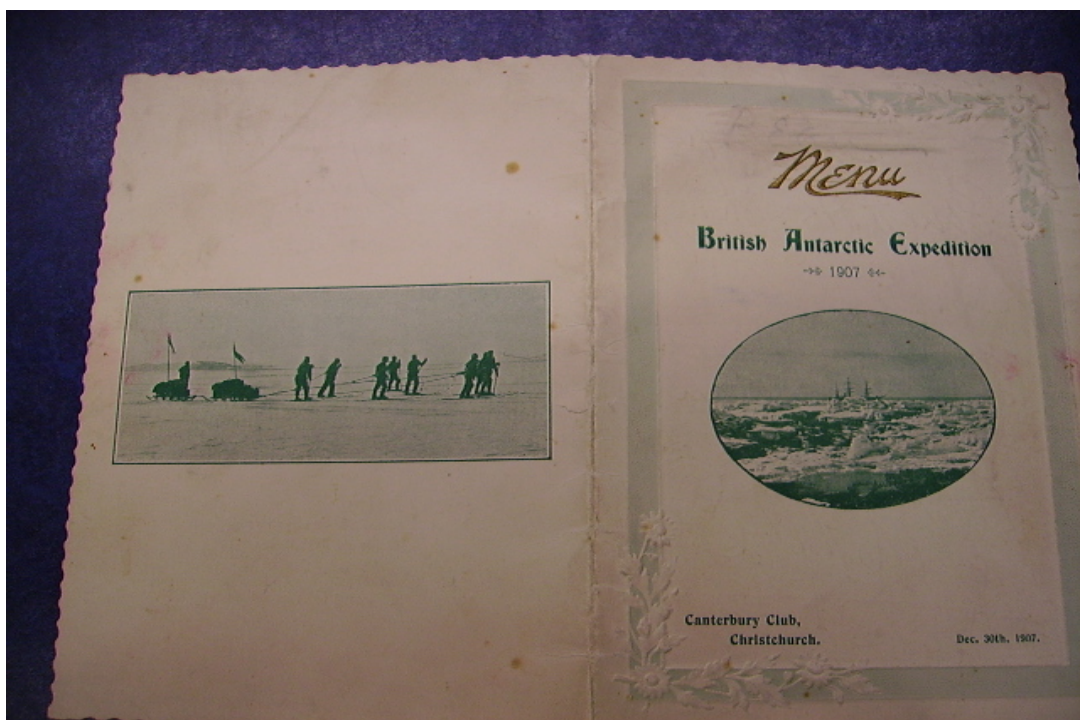
The next major social event was the Excursion and Picnic to Diamond Harbour on 29 December organised by the Lyttelton Harbour Board. This was another highly successful occasion attended by over 300. Most of the *Nimrod* Expedition men went as did those from the *Galilee* which was also in port. Bowen attended as did Bishops Grimes and Julius. ‘Such an assemblage betokened with rare eloquence the feelings of admiration and confidence cherished in Canterbury...towards the determined band of adventurers’. Many citizens who had supported Shackleton, such as the Bradley family, were invited (Canterbury Museum Documentary Centre, MS475). It was also attended by a ‘large number of ladies’. The tugboat *Canterbury* took the guests on a tour of Lyttelton Harbour followed by a picnic at Diamond Harbour. Music was provided by the Lyttelton Marine Band and ‘dainty afternoon tea was dispensed beneath the grateful shade of the pine forest’. It was a memorable day for many with ‘the sparkling, restless sea in front, the everlasting hills as background, and a British assemblage bidding God-speed to intrepid men of the blood standing on the threshold of an enterprise pregnant with possibilities for the furtherance of British fame and national prestige’. Bishop Julius spoke telling the men of the *Nimrod* that they were engaged in God’s work. Shackleton was received with cheers and the band playing, ‘See the Conquering Hero Comes’. Shackleton, once again, was fulsome in his praise saying that ‘when they were down on the ice they would remember that lovely day, the green grass, the flowers, the tea, cakes and beer’ (*The Press*, 30/12/07, p7).

Kinsey hosted a private dinner for the officers and scientists of the expedition at the Canterbury Club in Worcester Street on 30 December, two nights before they sailed.



The Canterbury Club Rooms today.

This was another highly successful occasion attended by many of Canterbury's dignitaries such as Bowen and Wigram. Once again, an impressive menu was provided.



The day prior to leaving a short, but impressive, service of dedication was delivered by Bishop Julius on board the *Nimrod*. The men were dressed in full uniform. The hymns, 'Fight the Good Fight' and 'Eternal Father Strong to Save' were sung. The Bishop preached briefly from Psalm 37v5, 'Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass' (*The Press*, 1/1/08, p9)

By this time 'Shackleton had been taken to the hearts of New Zealanders who took great pride in bestowing official recognition and public support' (Riffenburgh, 2004, p143). This was to be clearly shown in the send-off given from Lyttelton on New Year's Day 1908.

3.5 The *Nimrod* Expedition Leaves Lyttelton, New Year's Day 1908

The last days that the *Nimrod* spent in Lyttelton were busy with sightseers. Large crowds turned up to see the Manchurian ponies being brought over from Quail Island to the *Nimrod* (*The Press*, 1/1/08, p9). Many were also interested in the *Koonya* and looking at the heating and clothing provided for the crew. The departure of the expedition was reported in detail in all three of the Christchurch newspapers, several pages being devoted to it. It was obviously a major event for the city. The headlines in *The Press* on January 2 1908 read:

Antarctic Expedition

Departure of Expedition

A Magnificent Spectacle

The Parting Scene

An Occasion of Unprecedented Enthusiasm

The *Nimrod's* Farewell Signal

‘Goodbye and Thank you’

Lt Shackleton’s Message to the Dominion

New Year’s Day was traditionally the day for the Lyttelton Regatta, but 1908 saw unprecedented crowds turn up, mainly to farewell the expedition. Every train from the city was overcrowded as were the Sumner and New Brighton trams that delivered passengers to Lyttelton. From the early afternoon friends of the expedition members turned up to farewell them, ‘the internal regions of the little vessel were crowded, and pretty frocks were to be seen even in the gloomy regions presided over by the big engineer. The dogs and ponies came in for an amount of petting that was entirely to their taste...’ (*The Star*, 2/1/08, p1). But even Shackleton, normally so hospitable, could not allow the twenty-thirty thousand people on board who wished to see the vessel. However, at the last minute he invited Mr George Buckley, a friend and financial supporter of the expedition, to accompany him as far as the ice, and return on the *Koonya* which he did. This proved to be a fortunate decision for Shackleton as Buckley proved invaluable in calming the ponies which were distraught with the rough weather encountered on the journey (Saunders, 1956). By late afternoon, it was estimated that around 50,000 people (Riffenburgh, 2004, p145) had gathered on the wharf and hills to farewell the *Nimrod*.

The vessel left the Gladstone Pier at 4pm. Her departure was heralded by all the steamers in Port sounding their sirens, and a 64 pounder firing a salute on Sumner Road (*The Press*, 1/1/08, p9). The tugship *Canterbury*, crowded with passengers, and many other vessels, including private yachts and passenger boats, accompanied the *Nimrod* to the Heads. Many of these vessels were overcrowded and listing to one side

as passengers went to one side for a better view (Riffenburgh, 2004, p145). The U.S. magnetic survey ship *Galilee*, the H.M.S. *Pyramus*, and *Pegasus* and *Pioneer* all gave loud cheers as the *Nimrod* passed them (Fisher, 1957, p141). Before they said goodbye, they sang ‘Auld Lang Syne’, ‘For They are Jolly Good Fellows’ and ‘We Parted by the Shore’ (*The Star*, 2/1/08, p1).

Shackleton gave a farewell message, ‘This farewell from New Zealand has been unparalleled in the history of polar exploration for the kindness and warmth of enthusiasm manifested by a genuine people’ (*The Press*, 2/1/08, p7). He continued, ‘This expedition will never forget the send-off you have given us’ (*The Star*, 2/1/08, p1)

It was a day which illustrated the depth of support and interest that Shackleton had generated in Canterbury. ‘While (they)...have been in Christchurch, they have worked modestly and quietly, but determinedly at their task. In that way they have won the people’s hearts...this together with the romance of their undertaking led the public...to give them a send-off that they will not forget.’ It also seemed unlikely that the crowds of onlookers would forget. ‘To the onlooker, the afternoon was one of such rare fascination as one may seldom experience. One came out of it with a feeling of virtue at having been present, and with a realisation of what a gap in one’s experience it would have made to have missed it’ (*The Star*, 2/1/08, p1).

3.6 Return of the Nimrod for Refitting, April-November 1908

The *Nimrod*, under Captain England, returned to Lyttelton in April to a warm welcome from Christchurch. *The Press* headlines read, ‘**Welcome and Well Done**’. The expedition was again given the free use of the Lyttelton Harbour facilities where the vessel was put into dry dock and extensively refitted. This was necessary as the

Nimrod was ‘badly strained and requiring a deal of work’ (Captain England quoted in Newman, 1990, p69).

Kinsey, once again was invaluable to Shackleton ensuring that all that needed to be done was done; organising the crew for the return journey to Antarctica. He also gave a gala farewell party, on 26 November, for the expedition at his home on Clifton Hill, Te Hau. Over 400 attended this including many leaders of the Canterbury community such as Bishops Grimes and Julius and Members of Parliament (Newman, 1990, p70).

4. Shackleton’s Fourth Visit to Canterbury **The *Nimrod* Expedition Returns, March 25 1909**

The expedition returned to Lyttelton to an enthusiastic and excited welcome. The Press headlines read:

Antarctic Expedition

Arrival of *Nimrod*

A Felicitous Homecoming

Notable Scientific Discoveries Rumoured Further Expedition

Some Thrilling Adventures

Shackleton had sent a cable to London reporting on the expedition two days earlier, so the people of Christchurch and Lyttelton were keenly awaiting the arrival of the *Nimrod*. Interest had not waned, and *The Press* had run pages of articles on the men and work of the expedition in preparation for its return (24 and 25/3/09). The vessel arrived at Lyttelton on 25 March 1909. Brocklehurst described the scene in his diary: ‘Steamers came out to us crowded with people, guns firing and flags waving. A boat came alongside us and people crowded onto the *Nimrod*, we were flooded with

questions from news reporters (in Riffenburgh, p280). According to *The Press*, the steamer *Purau* had been one of those vessels which was crowded with sightseers cheering and singing 'Rule Britannia'. Sightseers scrambled between boats, mountains of letters were distributed and 'shortly before 6pm, the *Nimrod* passed through the moles. Bombs and rockets exploded with violent tokens of welcome, steamers whistles bellowed and howled...the assembled thousands on the wharves poured forth volley after volley of cheers' (*The Press*, 26/3/09, p7).

The vessel had berthed at 6pm having been greeted from the tugboat *Canterbury* by Bishop Julius, Kinsey, Bowen and the Mayors of Christchurch and Lyttelton. Trains had crowds from Christchurch anxious to see the *Nimrod*. All were excited. 'When the news of the *Nimrod*'s having been sighted gained currency, the shipping in the harbour burst into an ecstasy of felicitous bunting' (*The Press*, 26/3/09, p7). Christchurch and Lyttelton were thrilled at the return of their hero. When Shackleton left the ship he was greeted as an 'imperial hero. His striking looks, effervescent, charismatic personality, powerful speaking voice and honest and direct nature made him a favourite with men and women alike. He also came equipped with tales of endurance, determination, grit and dash, and raw courage all leading to achievement against the odds. It was exactly what the public wanted' (Riffenburgh, p280). All three newspapers (*The Press*, *Lyttelton Times* and *The Star*) devoted several pages, over the next few days, to the successes and exploits of the expedition. Shackleton seemed to represent all that was good about the British Empire, and Canterbury could not, it seemed, hear enough about his expeditions.

Shackleton was careful to express his gratitude for all the assistance he had been given. One of the first things he did after leaving the ship was to travel to Wellington to thank the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, for his support (Fisher, 1958, p237). An article in *The Press* (29/3/09, p8), headed, 'Prime Canterbury in Antarctica', thanked the people of Canterbury for their gifts of sheep and lambs which had made 'a most welcome addition to our diet'.

4.1 Involvement of Canterbury Residents

Canterbury residents were, once again, prepared to help in any way that they could.

A Thanksgiving Service for the safety and achievements of the expedition, was held in Christchurch Cathedral on Sunday, 28 March. It was attended by a very large congregation, Shackleton, and most of the officers and crew of the *Nimrod*. The service was replete with patriotism. Archbishop Julius preached an inspiring sermon referring to the Dreadnought that the New Zealand Government had given to the Imperial Navy (HMS New Zealand), and then saying: 'These men dread naught (sic) because there is in them, borne through the ages, taken from their fathers, granted to them by the grace of God, a courage that can endure...the heart of the whole nation is lifted up with thankfulness when they know that besides our ships we have the men that can stand by their country in her need, the men who will dare in her service and die if need be...' (in Fisher, 1957, p261)

Once again, free railway passes were provided for the crew, and free use of the port facilities was provided by the Lyttelton Harbour Board. This included use of the dry dock, shed accommodation and the tug. The City Council wanted to put on a public

reception for the expedition members, but this became difficult because of the rapid dispersal of several of the scientists and other members. This was finally organised by the Philosophical Institute, and was to be held at Freeman's Rooms on Saturday 3 April. It was hoped that many would attend as Christchurch 'rarely has had an opportunity of showing honour to one whose name will stand higher than Lt Shackleton in the brilliant roll of British explorers' (*The Press*, 1/4/09, p6).

4.2 Canterbury Hospitality **The *Nimrod* Banquet**

This was hosted by the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury and was attended by over 100 guests with many of Canterbury's dignitaries there, including Bishops Julius and Grimes, the Mayor, Bowen and Kinsey. 'The company was numerous and representative, and the reception...must have convinced him (Shackleton) of the warm place he holds in the hearts of the people of Canterbury' (*The Press*, 5/4/09, p7). The menu was of the highest standard.

Complimentary Banquet to Lt Shackleton, the Shore Party and the Officers of the S.Y. *Nimrod* on their Return from Antarctica

Menu

Soup

Potage Oxtail Puree of Tomato

Fish

Fillets of Flounder, Sauce Hollandaise

Entrees

Saute Rabbit au Champignon

Compote of Pigeon a l'Alexandra

Joints

Roast Lamb, Mint Sauce
York Ham, Westphalia Sauce
Ox Tongue, Madeira Sauce

Poultry

Roast Turkey, Celery Sauce

Vegetables

Green Peas Asparagus
Roast, Boiled and Mashed Potatoes

Sweets

Trifle

Raspberry Jellies Pudding a l'Antarctique

Cheese Straws

Dessert

Café Noir

(Shackleton papers, Antarctic Manuscripts Collection, Canterbury Museum)

Toasts were given by the Chairman of the Philosophical Institute, the Mayor, the Bishops, Dr Farr, Bowen and others. A standing ovation was given to Shackleton and loud applause as he responded to the many toasts to the expedition. He said that 'They always felt dissatisfied with what might have been done...but on that plateau, with no 'grub' inside them...they were forced to turn back. There had been no gentle maidens to rest their heads upon!' This was a reference to a duet that had been sung earlier in the evening and was received with laughter (*The Press*, 5/4/09, p8). He also expressed his gratitude for all the kindnesses that they had received. The evening ended with 'Auld Lang Syne', and 'God Save the King'.

The Lyttelton Harbour Board had also attempted to put on a social function for the members of the expedition. Shackleton responded to them explaining that the members of the expedition were widely scattered and that it would not be possible to collect them together for such a function. He also thanked them for placing the resources of Lyttelton at his disposal (*The Press*, 2/4/09, p7).

The Lyttelton Borough Council, wished to express their admiration of the achievements of the *Nimrod* Expedition. They placed on record the following statement: 'That the Lyttelton Borough Council congratulates the members of the *Nimrod* Expedition...and wishes to convey to them its appreciation of the splendid results obtained from their courageous enterprise which has upheld the best traditions of the British race' (*The Press*, 6/4/09, p8). This is further evidence of the high esteem in which Shackleton was held.

4.3 Shackleton's Contributions to Canterbury His Public Lecture

As requested by many citizens, Shackleton gave a public lecture on Wednesday 7 April at His Majesty's Theatre. The tickets to this had sold out within hours of the ticket office being opened, and over 2,000 attended the lecture. The theatre was so crowded that about 90 patrons had to be seated on the stage. Shackleton talked about the achievements of the expedition and illustrated his talk with photographs and lantern slides. He also expressed his appreciation of their support. The evening ended with the singing of 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow' and the National Anthem (*The Press*, 8/4/09, p7). Shackleton also gave lectures in Dunedin and Wellington (*Lyttelton Times*, 10/4/09, p8).

Donations

The money Shackleton made from this lecture was all given away, another gesture that endeared him to the people of Canterbury. Half of it was given to the children's ward at Christchurch Hospital, and the other half, £83, to the Christchurch Technical Institute to help them build a Girls' Training Hostel where Domestic Science could be taught more successfully to young women. For Shackleton, this was a reacquaintance with the Technical Institute who had given his men a Christmas gift in 1907. The purpose of the Training Hostel, the idea of the Head of the Home Science School at the Institute, Mrs Gardner, was to be a home 'where girls might receive training in all branches of homecraft amid surroundings in which their taste would be formed of the true and good and beautiful' (NZ Historic Places Trust Registration Proposal, 90 Ensors Road). Shackleton wholeheartedly supported this venture, and the hostel was duly built in 1912 after further fundraising.



Girls' Training Hostel, 90 Ensors Road, Opawa.



The Crest on the Girls' Hostel Building.

Shackleton contributed to Canterbury in other ways. He gave a comprehensive geological and zoological collection to the Canterbury Museum, and to other museums in New Zealand and Australia (*The Press*, 29/3/08, p8). Included in this was a collection of Antarctic fish.

He donated two volumes of his 'Antarctic Manual' to the Philosophical Institute. This was to form the basis of an Antarctic library (*The Press*, 5/4/09, p6).

More unusually, he left a memento of New Zealand on the ice in the form of a sealed tube containing a set of Dominion stamps at their 'farthest south' point, 97 miles from the South Pole.

4.4 Shackleton Reacquaints Himself with Canterbury Families

During this time in Christchurch, Shackleton, once again visited the Tripp family at Orari Gorge Station, taking time to renew his friendship with them, and to relax away

from the public eye (Harper, 1967). He also reacquainted himself with Edward Saunders, the reporter for the *Lyttelton Times* who had interviewed him in 1907. Shackleton was contracted to produce a book on the expedition, but struggled with the pressure to write this. On the recommendation of Sir Joseph Ward, and having read some of Saunders' work in the *Lyttelton Times* (this paper had carried the first full account of the *Nimrod* Expedition, in a spread of over four broadsheet pages, that was largely Saunders' work on March 24 and 26 1909), Shackleton decided to employ him to help write the book. Saunders was to return to England with Shackleton and undertake the duties of a private secretary for four months. All travelling expenses, a wage of £10 a week, and all expenses for his return journey were to be paid by Shackleton (Thomson, 1998, p188). They became close friends; Saunders living with his family for several months, and Shackleton even naming his son after him (Saunders, 1956). Saunders worked for months on the book; Shackleton dictating whilst Saunders noted his words down and then edited them. The book, *The Heart of the Antarctic* was published in November 1909 to great acclaim. *The Times*, called it 'the book of the season', and the *Manchester Guardian*, 'the best book on polar travel which has ever been written' (Huntford, 1985, p318).

Saunders' work was never publicly acknowledged, but this was at his own request. Shackleton acknowledged Saunders' work in a message he sent to the author's father via Kinsey saying: 'Before your son returns, wish to say he was indispensable. The success of the book largely due to him. I cannot speak too highly of him...not only my feeling but my publishers...Shackleton' (Thomson, 1998, p189).

4.5 Shackleton Leaves Canterbury, April 14 1909

Shackleton left New Zealand for Sydney on 17 April after spending a few days in Wellington. In a farewell speech, Shackleton said: 'I cannot sufficiently express my indebtedness to all those who have been so kind to us...you can rest assured when I am far away in my own home, I shall often look back to New Zealand, where I have received so much kindness and hospitality' (*The Press*, 16/4/09, p7).

5. Shackleton visits New Zealand to Organise the Rescue of the Ross Sea Party, December 1916

Shackleton again visited New Zealand in December 1916 while trying to organise the rescue of the stranded Ross Sea Party from his *Endurance* Expedition. During this time he was based in Wellington. The Christchurch public was hoping that he would visit, and were planning receptions for him (*The Press* 9/12/16, p5). This did not happen, however, as Shackleton struck problems with his role in the rescue of the Ross Sea Party, particularly with the issue of who would command the relief vessel, the *Aurora*. It appears that Kinsey and Shackleton had 'fallen out' over Shackleton's handling of the *Endurance* Expedition (Tripp, 1958), which made this situation more difficult.

However, there was still a connection with Canterbury. During this difficult time for Shackleton; he was in debt over the expedition and desperately trying to rescue the men of the Ross Sea Party, he was staying with Leonard Tripp at his Heretaunga home (Tripp, 1958). He had originally met Tripp in 1903 at the Orari Gorge Station in Canterbury. Tripp believed Shackleton's work was of great value to the Empire and

that the British Government should relieve him of his debt. However, Shackleton wanted to manage it himself. By this time, Tripp was acting as a virtual confidential secretary for Shackleton (Fisher, 1958, p419), and he set about gaining the support of businessmen and landowners. He managed to raise over £5,000 in loans (This was paid back after the sale of the *Aurora*). Tripp also advised Shackleton to take a subordinate role on the *Aurora* rather than commanding it, as this would avoid further delay (Tripp, 1958).

During this time, unlike the *Nimrod* Expedition, there was only minimal newspaper coverage of the Relief Expedition largely because of the prominence of the Great War. Shackleton's endeavours, no doubt reduced in significance compared with the enormous impact of the war on New Zealand society.

Shackleton was disappointed not to visit Canterbury. He spoke to a representative of *The Press* saying that he was tied up in Wellington which 'prevented me from renewing my friendship with many here...but, I will make a point of returning to Christchurch to renew my pleasant memories of it and its people' (*The Press*, 20/12/16, p6).

6.Sir Ernest Shackleton's Final Visit to Canterbury (He had been knighted after the *Nimrod* Expedition)

Shackleton Returns to Christchurch, February 24 1917

The *Aurora* successfully returned to Wellington on February 10, 1917 having rescued the Ross Sea Party, save the three members who had died previously (*The Press*, 10/2/1917, p9). After concluding his business there, attending public receptions and

giving a lecture, Shackleton travelled to Christchurch. Although newspaper coverage was much less than it had been for the *Nimrod* Expedition because of the War, public interest was still high.

6.1 Canterbury Hospitality

A Civil Reception was held for Shackleton on his arrival at 11.30am, at the Municipal Chambers. The Mayor extended a welcome to Shackleton and Joyce, the leader of the Ross Sea Party who accompanied Shackleton. Tributes were given by the Navy League, represented by Mr Alex Boyle (who had supported Shackleton's *Nimrod* Expedition), the Mayor, and the Hon G.W.Russell, the Minister of Marine who said that: 'Sir Ernest was a Britisher of the best stamp, from the crown of his head to the soles of his feet'. Those attending all applauded this (*Lyttelton Times*, 26/2/17, p9). Russell then announced that the New Zealand Government would pay for the relief expedition (*The Press*, 26/2/17, p5). One has to wonder what influence Leonard Tripp may have had in this generous decision, particularly in wartime.

Shackleton applauded and cheered this good news and said that 'Christchurch had many happy associations for him' (*The Press*, 26/2/17, p5). He also made reference to the statue of R.F.Scott that had been recently unveiled in Christchurch and gave a tribute to the work of Frank Wild who had led the Elephant Island men.

Afternoon Tea at the Girls' Training Hostel

That afternoon, 24 February, Shackleton was invited to afternoon tea at the Girls' Training Hostel in Opawa. On his previous visit to Christchurch, he had donated money from his public lecture to assist with the building of this hostel, to improve the quality of domestic science education in Christchurch. The occasion of his visit was

marked by Shackleton planting an oak tree on the front lawn (NZ Historic Places Trust).



The oak tree today



Plaque, 90 Ensors Road

6.2 Shackleton's Public Lecture

On Saturday 24 February Shackleton gave a public lecture at the Colosseum. It was crowded with over 1,500 people attending. Shackleton related the story of the *Endurance* Expedition accompanying it with 'excellent lantern slides'. Joyce told the story of the Ross Sea Party (*The Press*, 26/2/17, p5). The money from this lecture was again given away; half went to the Red Cross, and the other half was used to create a trust fund, administered by Leonard Tripp, for the widow of Mackintosh who had died while a member of the Ross Sea Party. Shackleton took no money for himself while in New Zealand (Fisher, 1958, p419). This appears to be the last public appearance of Shackleton in Christchurch.

6.3 Shackleton spends time with the Tripp Family.

After giving the lecture, he travelled again to Orari Gorge Station to spend time with his friends, the Tripp family, and to relax away from the public eye. Shackleton valued this friendship and had named two geographical features in Antarctica after them, Tripp Mount and Tripp Bay (Tripp, 1958). Leonard Tripp, continued to advise Shackleton, even after his return to England, mainly concerning public relations matters. It was on Tripp's advice that Shackleton contributed all the takings from his first public lecture in England to the New Zealand and Australian soldiers. Their friendship continued with Tripp being in England at the time of the *Quest*'s departure in 1921; Tripp sailing with Shackleton as far as Gravesend (Tripp, 1958).

6.4 Edward Saunders and South

The relationship with Canterbury journalist Edward Saunders also continued. Saunders had become the Associate Editor of the *Lyttelton Times* in 1914, and had

later moved to Wellington to work firstly on the *New Zealand Times*, and then for *The Dominion* (Thomson, 1998, p190). After the *Aurora* returned to Wellington, Saunders was granted an exclusive interview by Shackleton who had greeted him as a long lost brother (Thomson, 1998, p190). Saunders was employed by Shackleton again, this time to assist with the writing of *South*, the official account of the *Endurance* Expedition. Some of this was done in Wellington, prior to Shackleton leaving for Australia, while Shackleton stayed with Saunders' family as well as with Tripp (Saunders, 4/3/56). Tripp was often in attendance while Shackleton was dictating to Saunders. He remembers vividly the occasion at Tripp's weekend house at Heretaunga, when Shackleton spoke of the 'Fourth Man' for the first time, when relating the trip across South Georgia (Thomson, 1998, p191). Saunders then spent three weeks with Shackleton in Australia meeting other members of the expedition and working on *South*. He then returned to New Zealand with various documents, including, Worsley's diary, and continued working on the book. *South* was completed in August 1918, Shackleton sending a cablegram to Saunders on receiving it, 'book splendid' (Thomson, 1998, p191). Once again, this book was given wonderful reviews. After Shackleton's death in 1922, Tripp tried to get Saunders to explain his involvement in the writing of *The Heart of the Antarctic*, and *South*, but he would not allow this to be published, wanting only Shackleton's name to be honoured.

Conclusions:

This research shows that the people of Canterbury, on the whole, enthusiastically supported Shackleton in his Antarctic endeavours and welcomed him into the local community. This was partly a result of New Zealand's awareness of their part in the British Empire, and the importance of supporting anything that might strengthen the

Empire. The public seemed to have an insatiable demand to see and relate tangibly to heroes of Empire. In this, Shackleton was a near perfect role model. It was also partly a result of the genuine interest in exploration and things that were exciting and new, and partly a result of Shackleton himself. Shackleton's public appreciation and gratitude for any aid he received endeared him to the citizens of Canterbury. This sentiment was also fuelled by an adoring press.

Shackleton made use of the contacts he made in Canterbury, and its resources. Kinsey, who had been Scott's New Zealand agent became Shackleton's also, giving him access to powerful men in Christchurch which helped with the organising of the *Nimrod* expedition from Lyttelton. Kinsey was not so helpful in the organisation of the rescue of the Ross Sea Party in 1916, having 'fallen out' with Shackleton over his handling of the *Endurance* Expedition. Bowen was also helpful to Shackleton. Bowen was related to Sir Clements Markham, the President of the Royal Geographical Society, and a Member of Parliament. These contacts with political and local leaders assisted Shackleton in the organisation, and to some degree, in financing the *Nimrod*, and *Aurora* Expeditions. When Shackleton openly stated that he was short of money for the *Nimrod* Expedition, the New Zealand government offered to help. One must wonder what influence these men had in that decision. They may also have influenced the Government's provision, along with the Union Steamship Company, of the *Koonya* to tow the *Nimrod* to the ice, and to pay for the *Aurora* Relief Expedition. Leonard Tripp was another significant contact that Shackleton made in Canterbury. Tripp became a close friend of his, provided introductions to businessmen and bankers in Wellington, who loaned money for the *Aurora* Expedition, and introduced him to the Premier, Sir Joseph Ward, who displayed a strong interest in Shackleton's

work. Tripp became his virtual ‘confidential secretary’, giving worthwhile advice on how to handle situations, such as the control of the *Aurora* Expedition.

Shackleton befriended farmers, such as the Bradley family who assisted by providing sheep for the *Nimrod* Expedition, and George Buckley, who gave significant financial assistance. He was even supported by some school pupils who provided Christmas food hampers for the men of the *Nimrod*. An important contact that Shackleton made in Lyttelton was with Edward Saunders. Saunders became what Thomson called, ‘Shackleton’s ghost writer’(Thomson, 1998). Saunders went on to shape and edit the two major books that Shackleton wrote, *The Heart of the Antarctic*, and *South*.

Shackleton was also able to make use of the Lyttelton Harbour and Port facilities which were offered to him for use free-of-charge by the Lyttelton Harbour Board. Free travel on the railways was provided for all the men of his expeditions, and the men were also ‘adopted’ by various Christchurch families which would have helped Shackleton indirectly, by keeping the men more settled.

This research shows the huge interest of Canterbury residents in Shackleton and his expeditions. The sheer sense of excitement and occasion engendered by the arrival and departure of the *Nimrod* resulted in large numbers of local people turning out to watch. Over 50,000 people lined the wharves and hills of Lyttelton, and clambered aboard launches and other vessels to get a view of the departing *Nimrod*. This must have been a very high proportion of the local population. Their interest was also shown by the numbers who visited Lyttelton at the weekends to visit the ship; frequently extra trains had to be put on. The extent of coverage provided by the three

newspapers is another indication of the level of interest. Frequently, several pages would be devoted to the work and plans of the expedition. This was much reduced for the *Aurora* Relief Expedition as it occurred during the Great War.

Local citizens showed their support in their attendance at functions put on for Shackleton and his expedition. Crowds turned up for his public lectures, with many being turned away. Large numbers attended church services and banquets held for the expedition. Families ‘adopted’ crew members, and, no doubt, welcomed them into their homes at Christmas.

Shackleton had an enormous impact on the people of Canterbury who went out of their way to support him. Families today, such as the Tripps, still speak fondly of family memories of him, and of how highly he was thought of. It was a time of Empire, and Shackleton seemed to stand for everything that was honourable, courageous, strong and British about it. He gave hope in the midst of war, and earlier with fear of war, that the British Empire would continue while men, such as Shackleton existed.

‘Shackleton had been taken into the hearts of New Zealanders who took great pride in bestowing official recognition and public support’ (Riffenburgh, 2004).

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